

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 18-23, 32, 34-35, 37-39, and add new claims 40-49. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-14. (Canceled)

15-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A ~~kit~~ solution comprising a plurality of fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) hybridization probes comprising:

a first single-stranded oligonucleotide carrying a FRET donor entity and at least one second entity, said second entity being a compound which is capable of quenching fluorescence of said FRET donor entity; and

a second single-stranded oligonucleotide carrying a FRET acceptor entity but not carrying a FRET donor entity, wherein the FRET donor entity of the first oligonucleotide and the FRET acceptor entity of the second oligonucleotide are a FRET pair.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~kit~~ solution of claim 18, wherein the FRET donor entity and the second entity are carried on adjacent nucleotides of the first oligonucleotide.

20. (Currently Amended) A ~~kit~~ solution comprising ~~[[a]]~~ 3 oligonucleotides, the solution comprising a first oligonucleotide and a second oligonucleotide capable of acting as a pair of amplification primers for a template dependent nucleic acid amplification reaction, further characterized in that said first oligonucleotide and a third oligonucleotide are each labeled with one corresponding member of a FRET pair consisting of a FRET donor entity and a FRET acceptor entity,

wherein the oligonucleotide carrying the FRET donor entity further carries at least one second entity, said second entity being a compound which is capable of quenching fluorescence of said FRET donor entity; and

wherein the oligonucleotide carrying the FRET acceptor entity does not carry a FRET donor entity.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~kit~~ solution of claim 20, wherein ~~the~~ FRET donor entity and the second entity are carried on adjacent nucleotides of the oligonucleotide carrying the FRET donor entity.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~A composition comprising a nucleic acid sample and the first and second oligonucleotides~~ The solution according to claim 18 or ~~the 3 oligonucleotides according to claim 20, further comprising a nucleic acid sample.~~

23. (Currently Amended) ~~A kit comprising a pair of hybridization probes~~ The solution according to claim 18 or ~~the 3 oligonucleotides according to claim 20, and further comprising~~ at least one other component selected from a group consisting of a nucleic acid amplification primer, a template dependent nucleic acid polymerase, at least one deoxynucleoside triphosphate and a buffer for template dependent nucleic acid amplification reaction.

24-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) A ~~kit~~ solution comprising a plurality of fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) hybridization probes comprising:
a first single-stranded oligonucleotide carrying a FRET donor entity and a nitroindole moiety capable of quenching fluorescence of said FRET donor entity; and
a second single-stranded oligonucleotide carrying a FRET acceptor entity,
wherein the FRET donor entity of the first oligonucleotide and the FRET acceptor entity of the second oligonucleotide are a FRET pair.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) The ~~kit~~ solution of claim 32, wherein the FRET donor entity and the nitroindole moiety are carried on adjacent nucleotides of the first oligonucleotide.

35. (Currently Amended) A ~~kit~~ solution comprising ~~[[a]]~~ 3 oligonucleotides, the solution comprising a first oligonucleotide and a second oligonucleotide capable of acting as a pair of amplification primers for a template dependent nucleic acid amplification reaction, further characterized in that said first oligonucleotide and a third oligonucleotide are each labeled with one corresponding member of a FRET pair consisting of a FRET donor entity and a FRET acceptor entity,

wherein the oligonucleotide carrying the FRET donor entity further carries a nitroindole moiety capable of quenching fluorescence of said FRET donor entity.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) The ~~kit~~ solution of claim 35, wherein the FRET donor entity and the nitroindole moiety are carried on adjacent nucleotides of the oligonucleotide carrying the FRET donor entity.

38. (Currently Amended) ~~A composition comprising a nucleic acid sample and a pair of hybridization probes~~ The solution according to claim 32 or ~~the 3 oligonucleotides according to claim 35, further comprising a nucleic acid sample.~~

39. (Currently Amended) ~~A kit comprising a pair of hybridization probes~~ The solution according to claim 32 or ~~the 3 oligonucleotides according to claim 35, further comprising~~ and at least one other component selected from a group consisting of a nucleic acid amplification primer, a template dependent nucleic acid polymerase, at least one deoxynucleoside triphosphate and a buffer for template dependent nucleic acid amplification reaction.

40. (New) A solid support comprising a plurality of FRET hybridization probes comprising:

a first single-stranded oligonucleotide carrying a FRET donor entity and at least one second entity, said second entity being a compound which is capable of quenching fluorescence of said FRET donor entity; and

a second single-stranded oligonucleotide carrying a FRET acceptor entity but not carrying a FRET donor entity, wherein the FRET donor entity of the first oligonucleotide and the FRET acceptor entity of the second oligonucleotide are a FRET pair.

41. (New) A solid support comprising 3 oligonucleotides, the solid support comprising a first oligonucleotide and a second oligonucleotide capable of acting as a pair of amplification primers for a template dependent nucleic acid amplification reaction, further characterized in that said first oligonucleotide and a third oligonucleotide are each labeled with one corresponding member of a FRET pair consisting of a FRET donor entity and a FRET acceptor entity,

wherein the oligonucleotide carrying the FRET donor entity further carries at least one second entity, said second entity being a compound which is capable of quenching fluorescence of said FRET donor entity; and

wherein the oligonucleotide carrying the FRET acceptor entity does not carry a FRET donor entity.

42. (New) A solid support comprising a plurality of FRET hybridization probes comprising:

a first single-stranded oligonucleotide carrying a FRET donor entity and a nitroindole moiety capable of quenching fluorescence of said FRET donor entity; and

a second single-stranded oligonucleotide carrying a FRET acceptor entity, wherein the FRET donor entity of the first oligonucleotide and the FRET acceptor entity of the second oligonucleotide are a FRET pair.

43. (New) A kit comprising the solution according to any one of claim 18, claim 20, claim 32 or claim 35.

44. (New) A kit comprising 3 oligonucleotides, comprising a first oligonucleotide and a second oligonucleotide capable of acting as a pair of amplification primers for a template dependent nucleic acid amplification reaction, further characterized in that said first oligonucleotide and a third oligonucleotide are each labeled with one corresponding member of a FRET pair consisting of a FRET donor entity and a FRET acceptor entity,

wherein the oligonucleotide carrying the FRET donor entity further carries a nitroindole moiety capable of quenching fluorescence of said FRET donor entity.

45. (New) A lyophilized solution comprising a plurality of FRET hybridization probes comprising:

a first single-stranded oligonucleotide carrying a FRET donor entity and at least one second entity, said second entity being a compound which is capable of quenching fluorescence of said FRET donor entity; and

a second single-stranded oligonucleotide carrying a FRET acceptor entity but not carrying a FRET donor entity, wherein the FRET donor entity of the first oligonucleotide and the FRET acceptor entity of the second oligonucleotide are a FRET pair.

46. (New) A lyophilized solution comprising 3 oligonucleotides, the lyophilized solution comprising a first oligonucleotide and a second oligonucleotide capable of acting as a pair of amplification primers for a template dependent nucleic acid amplification reaction, further characterized in that said first oligonucleotide and a third oligonucleotide are each labeled with one corresponding member of a FRET pair consisting of a FRET donor entity and a FRET acceptor entity,

wherein the oligonucleotide carrying the FRET donor entity further carries at least one second entity, said second entity being a compound which is capable of quenching fluorescence of said FRET donor entity; and

wherein the oligonucleotide carrying the FRET acceptor entity does not carry a FRET donor entity.

47. (New) A lyophilized solution comprising a plurality of FRET hybridization probes comprising:

a first single-stranded oligonucleotide carrying a FRET donor entity and a nitroindole moiety capable of quenching fluorescence of said FRET donor entity; and

a second single-stranded oligonucleotide carrying a FRET acceptor entity, wherein the FRET donor entity of the first oligonucleotide and the FRET acceptor entity of the second oligonucleotide are a FRET pair.

48. (New) A lyophilized solution comprising 3 oligonucleotides, comprising a first oligonucleotide and a second oligonucleotide capable of acting as a pair of amplification primers for a template dependent nucleic acid amplification reaction, further characterized in that said first oligonucleotide and a third oligonucleotide are each labeled with one corresponding member of a FRET pair consisting of a FRET donor entity and a FRET acceptor entity,

wherein the oligonucleotide carrying the FRET donor entity further carries a nitroindole moiety capable of quenching fluorescence of said FRET donor entity.

49. (New) A kit comprising a lyophilized solution according to any one of claims 45-48.